

LA RYTHMIQUE JAQUES-DALCROZE

STORIES

yesterday



and today

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BERN

I am not going to speak about Jaques-Dalcroze in the historical perspective. It has already been done by those who understand that point of view. I am going to try and conjure up Monsieur Jaques' personality from the point of view of the children, such as I knew and loved him all through my childhood.

For all of us, small friends of the same generation, Monsieur Jaques was not, in the first place, a famous person. To be sure, we knew that this was a fact, but without realizing the full implication thereof. He was both more and less than that; he was like a big tree giving forth its kindly shade; a refuge which afforded us both safety and liberty. It seemed as if he had been put there on purpose for us and so he was part and parcel of our little world, a world which was unimaginable without him. Whatever we may have intended in the way of music or movement had to be submitted to Monsieur Jaques in the never frustrated hope that he would give us his helpful and constructive advice enabling us to go ahead with the task which we had undertaken.

Already during his life-time Jaques-Dalcroze was known all over the world. The Anglo-Saxon countries, Germany, Scandinavia, were very quick in the uptake of his ideas which soon began to spread to all the continents. Therefore it was not surprising that very soon this universality was reflected in the medley of students in the professional classes.

Jaques-Dalcroze shared this characteristic of universality with all the great teachers of his time. For example Rabin Dranath Tagore, whom Monsieur Jaques admired very much, paid a visit one day to the Ecole Rousseau, in Geneva. When